

## Draft Vision Blueprint Goal & Objective Identification: 2014 North Carolina Port Meeting Comparison

Below is a summary of solutions proposed by stakeholders in North Carolina during the 2014 port meetings. The document also shows where each solution is currently addressed in the draft Vision Blueprint strategic goal documents (*Goal, Objective, Strategy, and Actions*). This will document how the Council is addressing the proposed solutions and input from stakeholders when crafting the draft Vision Blueprint.

### Top issues and suggested solutions:

#### ISSUE 1: One-size-fits-all management is not working

##### Solutions -

- Data taken from each state (use a boat registration from the state, where fish are landed, by home port)  
**Needs to be addressed**
- State-state allocation for spawning closure – based on biological differences between states **Mngmt-Obj 1, Strat 1.3, Action A; Mngmt-Obj 2, Strat 2.3, Action E**
- Address spawning season closure to account for temporal/latitudinal differences in spawning activity of some species **Mngmt-Obj 1, Strat 1.3, Action A; Mngmt-Obj 2, Strat 2.3, Action E**
- Allow states to manage their share of the Total Allowable Catch **Mngmt-Obj 1, Strat 1.1, Action A; Obj 1, Strat 1.2, Action A, B, C**
- Divide quota among states evenly **Mngmt-Obj 1, Strat 1.1, Action A;**
- Year round availability -- catch shares **Mngmt-Obj 1, Strat 1.1, Action B**
- Set coastwise season fair to all – adjust opening/closure dates based on what state you are in; set up seasons differently dependent on what state you are in **Mngmt-Obj 1, Strat 1.2, Action A, B, C**
- Divide quota among commercial permits **Mngmt-Obj 1, Strat 1.1, Action B**
- Adjust seasons geographically **Mngmt-Obj 1, Strat 1.3, Action B, C, D**
- Manage migratory stocks and stationary stocks differently; stationary stocks could be managed by states  
**Needs to be addressed**
- Regional management – consider state by state management (golden tilefish and snowy grouper); if can't do state by state management, create separate regions (NC/SC and GA/FL) **Mngmt-Obj 1, Strat 1.1, Action B; Mngmt-Obj 1, Strat 1.2, Action A, B, C**

#### ISSUE 2: Manage to reduce discards

##### Solutions -

- No size limits; bag limit only **Mngmt-Obj 2, Strat 2.1, Action D, E, F;**
- Establish a bycatch allowance – need a limit/quota per trip/per boat on bycatch.
- Sliding trip limits – when a certain percent of the quota is met, then the trip limit needs to decrease.  
**Mngmt-Obj 2, Strat 2.1, Action A**
- Bycatch allowance by region **Mngmt-Obj 4, Strat 4.5, Action A, B, C**
- Go to a size limit that allows for a year-round fishery **Needs to be addressed**
- Split seasons, trip limits **Mngmt-Obj 2, Strat 2.3, Action C, D**
- Promote use of descending devices and educate public on barotrauma **Mngmt-Obj 4, Strat 4.4, Action A, B**
- Allow a bycatch amount per trip (pounds or %) **Mngmt-Obj 4, Strat 4.5, Action A, B, C**

- Open recreational season year round with strict creel limits and no size limits; **Mngmt-Obj 2, Strat 2.1, Action D, E, F**
- Make recreational and commercial black sea bass size limits the same **Needs to be addressed**
- Set seasons – continuous vs. contiguous; by state **Mngmt-Obj 1, Strat 1.3, Action B, C, D**

### ISSUE 3: Improve data collection

#### Solutions -

- Tag fish to obtain information such as mortality rate, location, distance/depth. Work with universities or other institutions on tagging programs. **Needs to be addressed**
- Hire fishermen to obtain better data **Sci-Obj 2, Strat 2.2, Action A, B**
- Exclusively use charter as data source for recreational sector **Needs to be addressed**
- Put observers on boats to see firsthand how many fish are present **Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.1, Action A, B**
- Cooperative data collection w/ universities (a lot of ways to get states together to get assessments done correctly) **Sci-Obj 2, Strat 2.1, Action A, B**
- Trip tickets for recreational fishermen **Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.2, Action A, B, C, F**
- Commercial/rec sector underwater video data collection **Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.1, Action C**
- State saltwater fishing license for offshore fishing **Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.2, Action D**
- Can ask questions on recreational saltwater fishing license (to help identify offshore bottom fishermen) **Needs to be addressed**
- ID bottom fishermen - recreational (offshore? reef?) permit **Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.2, Action D**
- Additional data collection during licensing process **Needs to be addressed**
- Get valid information from saltwater anglers **Needs to be addressed**
- Identify fishing types **Needs to be addressed**
- Modestly priced recreational permit for Snapper Grouper fishery (example: HMS permit) **Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.2, Action D**
- Underwater video surveillance for fishery-independent surveys **Sci-Obj 1, Strat 1.3, Action A**
- Better reporting strategies such as phone calls to recreational saltwater licensed fishermen, electronic trip reporting **Needs to be addressed**
- Give Monroe County in Florida to Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council **Being addressed by the Joint South Florida Issues Committee**
- Have recreational fishermen fill out trip reports (similar to commercial fishermen); consider requiring recreational trip reports for whole region; this would be easier for the for-hire/charter sector and may not be realistic for other recreational fishers **Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.2, Action A, B, C, F**
- Add check box to recreational saltwater license to help identify offshore (maybe specific to snapper grouper fishermen?) anglers; potential low cost solution **Needs to be addressed**
- Electronic reporting for the recreational sector **Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.2, Action B**
- Management and research/monitoring programs need to adapt to shifts in abundance, etc. due to climate change **Sci-Obj 5, Strat 5.2, Action A, B, C, D; Strat 5.3, Action B, D, E**
- Find ways to incorporate anecdotal information into science, assessments, and management **Sci-Obj 2, Strat 2.2, Action A, B**

## ISSUE 4: Improve reporting

### Solutions -

- Streamline reporting methods ***Sci-Obj 1, Strat 1.2, Action A, B***
- Trip tickets for all stakeholders ***Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.2, Action A, B, C, F, G***
- Check box for reef fish on recreational saltwater fishing license to help identify recreational snapper grouper fishermen ***Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.2, Action D***
- Pilot program for (voluntary?) self reporting system for recreational sector ***Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.2, Action A***
- Change accountability measures - individuals expressed interest in closures impacting all sectors the same; once one sector reaches their ACL for a species, all sectors would close; to allow for this recreational regulations may have to be adjusted so that they would be able to reach their ACL in the allotted time. ***Mngmt-Obj 2, Strat 2.1, Action A, E, G***
- Reporting via app, email, photo stream ***Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.2, Action B***
- Electronic versions of trip tickets, trip reports, and discard reports ***Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.2, Action B***
- Mandatory electronic reporting for all sectors (commercial, for-hire, and recreational) ***Sci-Obj 4, Strat 4.2, Action B***

### **Other issues of importance:**

- Opposition to catch shares (commercial and recreational)
- Confusing/complex regulations
- User conflicts (mainly for-hire vs. commercial)
- Disapproval of endorsement program/eligibility requirements
- Lack of communication/coordination between agencies
- Lack of fishery-independent sampling north of Cape Hatteras
- Consider limited entry program for for-hire sector
- Unfair sector allocations
- Consider climate change in management decisions
- Conduct focused research for regional management
- Inconsistent supply of seafood
- Concern about decrease in quantity and quality of fishery-dependent data due to regulations
- Consider spatial management tools other than MPAs
- Line up fishing seasons
- More fishermen & stakeholder involvement